



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

Monday, January 11, 2010

COUNTY SPONSORS 15th ANNUAL WINTERFEST

Celebrate the "Cool" Season on Sunday at Mendon Ponds Park

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** announced that the County's 15th annual Winterfest will be hosted at Mendon Ponds Park on Sunday, January 17, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The FREE event is open to the public.

Jointly sponsored and coordinated by the Monroe County Department of Parks and Friends of Mendon Ponds Park, Winterfest has a rich history of being a great outdoor event for all audiences. Several community organizations and winter themed demonstrations are planned throughout the park both outside and inside the park's heated lodges. The event has continued to grow over the years and offers many activities visitors have come to love, while highlighting new partners and local endeavors.

Winterfest will feature a variety of participants from face painting to an appearance by the Wegman's ZooMobile. Don't miss Winterfest favorites like the Monroe County Sheriff's Department Mounted Patrol and Special Services units and the horse and wagon ride overlooking beautiful Hundred Acre Pond. There will also be free cross country ski lessons and tours, snowshoeing, crafts and demonstrations by outdoor retailers and clubs and snowshoe and sled dog races. As a highlight to their information station, Mercy Flight is planning to land in front of Stewart Lodge at approximately 2:00 p.m., schedule permitting.

Kicking off at Winterfest this year, the Central Library of Rochester will be hosting "The Big Read," an initiative of the National Endowment of the Arts, designed to instill the love reading. For the month of January, they have selected *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London and free copies will be available to the public on a first come first serve basis in the Cobblestone House. Also at the Cobblestone House, The Stars and Stripes Veterans Outreach Center will have a display and will talk about historic flags of the United States. Food and refreshments will be available at the Nature Center, Stewart Lodge and East Lodge.

Mendon Ponds Park is located in the southeastern portion of Monroe County just south of the Thruway. You can enter the park from either Route 65 (Clover Street) or Pittsford-Mendon Center Road. For more information, call 753-PARK (7275) and visit either www.monroecounty.gov/parks or www.mendonpondswinterfest.org.

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